

BULLETPROOF VEST
PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come before you today in support of S. 2413, the Bulletproof Vest Reauthorization Act of 2000. This very effective, bipartisan legislation, introduced by Senator CAMPBELL of Colorado, passed the Senate by unanimous consent and is identical to H.R. 4033, legislation which I sponsored.

As Members will recall, this chamber passed H.R. 4033, the House Bulletproof Vest Reauthorization bill, back in July of this year by an overwhelming majority vote of 413–3. At that time, I gave a more lengthy statement on the issue of bulletproof vests. Due to time constraints, I will abbreviate my remarks today.

As I have said before, I firmly believe that when a police officer is issued a badge and a gun, they should also be issued a bulletproof vest. When police officers put their lives on the line everyday protecting our neighborhoods—they deserve the highest level of protection and security, which only a bulletproof vest can provide.

I introduced the original Bulletproof Vest Authorization bill in the 105th Congress, which was signed into law by the President. This very successful and popular program authorized \$25 million each year through Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 to assist law enforcement officers in purchasing body armor. The program proved to be more popular than initially expected, and we soon found out that \$25 million each year was not adequate to fulfill the goal of providing every law enforcement officer with body armor.

The bill before us today makes three major improvements to the existing Bulletproof Vest Program. First, the authorization will be doubled from \$25 to \$50 million each year through Fiscal Year 2004. Extending the authorization is critical in enabling officers across the nation to participate in the Bulletproof Vest Program, which has been proven to save lives. Second, language was included in the bill which guarantees smaller jurisdictions a fair portion of federal funding. Finally, this legislation improves the stab-proof standard for corrections officers who depend on these vests to protect them while on the job.

The stab-proof issue is especially important to me and my District. A constituent of mine, Corrections Officer Fred Baker was stabbed to death while on duty at the Bayside State Prison. Officer Baker was not wearing a vest at the time. We can only speculate as to whether his life would have been spared had he been given an opportunity to wear a vest, but many of us believe that had he been given that opportunity, Officer Baker would be alive today and his wife and child would still have a husband and father to come home to. If Officer Baker had the chance to wear a vest, I am sure that he would not have hesitated to put that vest on.

The legislation before us today will help ensure law enforcement officers receive federal assistance in purchasing body armor. It is critical that Members again vote in favor of this legislation.

CONCERNING VIOLENCE IN
MIDDLE EAST

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, my vote today on H. Con. Res. 426 is not a vote “against” anything. It is a vote “for” peace. I am convinced that a peaceful settlement of the long-standing differences between Israel and the Palestinian people can only be achieved through continuing the current dialogue between the parties. I also believe that the United States can play an important—and irreplaceable—role as an honest broker of peace.

Israel has been a good friend and ally to the U.S. and I support continuation of that special relationship and our long-standing commitment to her freedom and security.

However, I am also steadfast in my support of the United States’ commitment to be an honest broker of peace in the Middle East.

It is because of this position that I am so uncomfortable with the tone of this resolution. While it is understandable that the House may wish to express grave concerns about the violence currently taking place in the region, those concerns must be expressed in a way that does not cause either party to doubt the United States’ neutrality in the negotiations nor its commitment to achieving outcomes acceptable to both parties. This resolution does not do so.

I am equally concerned about the House’s persistent efforts to intrude into the peace process from a distance. Diplomacy is a delicate endeavor. For House Members to appear to take sides would seem to undermine—rather than further—our hopes for peace. A resolution such as this seems much too blunt an instrument to deliver the outcome we all profess to desire.

ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL
HERITAGE CORRIDOR ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, in 1995, Congressman JAMES WALSH and Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, directed the National Parks Service to study the merits of the Erie Canal System’s federal designation. In 1998, the study concluded that the system did in fact have great historical significance and recommended the canal for National Heritage Corridor status. Legislation was thus drafted and presented on the House floor on October 3, 2000. I support H.R. 5375 because I too, feel that the Erie Canal represents a key component of not only New York State’s history, but the history of the United States, as well.

The Erie Canal was originally built to provide a waterway that would link the Great Lakes with the eastern seaboard. Completed in 1825, the canal was the first of its kind and proved to be the working model used in future canal construction throughout the United States. This manmade waterway helped to

transform the economy of the Northeast and Midwest states along the Great Lakes. The construction of the canalway helped to accelerate shipping and trade in these areas, which in turn helped to establish flourishing metropolitan areas such as New York City, Albany, Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo, not to mention the development and growth witnessed in Mid-western shipping centers, such as Cleveland, Detroit, and Chicago.

Recently the residents of Buffalo and Western New York have realized that our city can once again generate economic investment from its position as the western terminus of the Erie Canal. The Erie Canal as the centerpiece of the City’s Inner Harbor development. A major focus of the Inner Harbor project is to once again center the region’s transportation system at Buffalo’s waterfront. I have worked to bring over \$35 million in federal dollars to the Inner Harbor to fund transportation related infrastructure improvements. The designation of the Erie Canal is a National Heritage Corridor would further enhance the attraction of the Inner Harbor site both locally and nationally.

The significant National Heritage Corridor designation would allow Congress to provide federal resources and technical assistance for canalside communities from Buffalo to Albany to establish projects involving interpretive centers, historic preservation and economic development.

This is the perfect time to approve this legislation. The year 2000 marks the 175th Anniversary of New York State’s creation and stewardship of the Erie Canalway for commerce, transportation, and recreational purposes, establishing the network which made New York the “Empire State” and the nation’s premier commercial and financial center.

HONORING WILSON MICHAEL
SCOTT UPON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE HOUSE RECORDING
STUDIO

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, at the end of October the House of Representatives will lose a loyal, long time employee to a much deserved retirement. Wilson Michael Scott, known as Mike, will be retiring after more than thirty years of working at the House Recording Studio. Mike’s career with the House started in November of 1969 as a radio production technician. Mike was here when the House began televising its proceedings in March of 1979 and played an integral role in the launch of that project. Mike retires as the Technical Director of the House Recording Studio. His technical knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed by this institution.

Although Mike is one of the many staffers who work behind the scenes to ensure the smooth operations of the House, many may recognize him as the gentleman receiving extra portions of barbecued ribs and greens every Thursday in the Capitol Carry Out.

Mike has a colorful sense of humor which has helped keep his co-workers alert during late night sessions. Upon his departure, he will leave many fond and wonderful memories with

those who had the honor to work with him during his career.

Mike will return to his farm in Marion, Virginia to spend more time with his wife, Carol, daughters, Barit and Tracey, and his 1952 Ford tractor.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Mike Scott godspeed and much happiness for many years in his well-earned retirement.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of S. 1438. As a cosponsor of H.R. 2710, the National Law Enforcement Museum Act, the House companion bill to S. 1438, I am extremely pleased that House of Representatives is considering S. 1438, legislation which authorizes the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund to construct a National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia.

Fittingly, this Museum will be built directly across the street from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Dedicated in 1991, the three-acre park is highlighted by the names of more than 15,000 federal, state and local law enforcement officers who have courageously and selflessly sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. They paid the ultimate price to protect us and enforce the laws which bind our society together.

I am glad that we are taking a step closer today to preserving the history of all of America's law enforcement officers' heroic service and sacrifice for future generations.

HONORING SERGEANT FRANKLIN A. BIVIGHOUSE

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Franklin A. Bivighouse, who is retiring after 25 years from the Telford Borough Police Department in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Franklin Bivighouse began his law enforcement career in 1971 with the Franconia Township Police Department and continued his service with Lower Salford Township Police Department until 1975. He was hired by the Telford Borough Police Department on July 21, 1975 and served Telford into the 21st Century.

During his tenure with the Telford Borough Police Department, Sergeant Bivighouse received many accolades for his outstanding service. On December 24, 1976, he rescued a man who was trapped in a burning automobile and was honored by the Chapel of Four Chaplains as well as local civic groups. He also received the Silver Star for Bravery from the American Federation of Police.

Sergeant Bivighouse has been an active within the Montgomery County community as

a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, Montgomery County Lodge #14 and the Pennsylvania DUI Association. He also served as the Telford Borough Police Department Director.

It is an honor and privilege to recognize Franklin Bivighouse as he retires from the Telford Borough Police Department, and I congratulate him on 25 years of extraordinary service to the people of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, the recent change in government in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been cited by some as a testament to the policy of the United States and NATO in ending the rule of Slobodan Milosevic. While I applaud the change, we must not forget the serious charges made by our government against Milosevic. Led by our country, NATO leveled charges against Milosevic as a war criminal, guilty of genocide and other atrocities, to justify military action and economic sanctions.

Milosevic must be brought to trial before an international court. The allegations of genocide are so serious they must be fully investigated, and if found to be true, he must be brought to justice. When this body passed the FY 01 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, we deliberately included language to make U.S. assistance to Serbia contingent on certification the Yugoslav government is cooperating with the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia including access for investigators, the provision of documents and the surrender and transfer of indictees or assistance in their apprehension.

Clearly, our intent is to see alleged war criminals prosecuted. Our willingness to provide assistance to the Republic of Serbia is based on that threshold, and should serve as a strong barometer for the new government of President Vojislav Kostunica. The true test of Kostunica's cooperation and reentry into the community of nations will be whether he fully cooperates.

I call upon the Congressional leadership and the Administration to urge that in our discussions with President Kostunica, we insist on the surrender of Milosevic for trial before an international body. Any action less than this will suggest our initial charges were without merit. If that is the case, those who made them should be asked to account for their statements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was in New York, and unable to be present for the following votes, had I been present I would have voted as follows:

October 24: rollcall No. 541, "no"; rollcall No. 542 "yes"; rollcall No. 543, "no".

October 25: rollcall No. 544, "yes"; rollcall No. 545, "no"; rollcall No. 546, "yes"; rollcall No. 547, "yes"; rollcall No. 548, "yes"; rollcall No. 549, "yes"; rollcall No. 550, "yes"; rollcall No. 551, "no"; rollcall No. 552, "yes".

October 26: rollcall No. 553, "no"; rollcall No. 554, "yes"; rollcall No. 555, "no"; rollcall No. 556, "no".

THE HERITAGE OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the industrial and cultural coal-mining heritage of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

This Congress recently passed legislation to create the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna and Wayne counties in Pennsylvania, and the President signed it into law on October 6. Together with the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and the Schuylkill National Heritage Corridor, this designation honors the coal-mining heritage of the people of the region and their contribution to powering the industrial Revolution and helping the United States win two world wars.

For the benefit of other members of the House of Representatives who may not be familiar with this rich heritage and its legacy, I would now like to read into the RECORD a short statement composed by a friend of mine, Mr. Richard Morgan of Shamokin, Pennsylvania.

Northeastern Pennsylvania has been well blessed with quality people. Thousands of immigrants came to our section of Pennsylvania from the world over.

Our neighbors became blended together as one. We came to share our lives in a manner that was beyond the belief of outsiders, who had never experienced the unique joy we found in each other. The rich cultural fabric that resulted is second to none.

The severe economic conditions that have been present for generations in the hard coal regions, have caused most of our sons and daughters to spread themselves, their talents, and their deeply ingrained coal cracker lifestyles far and wide across America.

Other communities throughout America have benefited by our loss. Our young people were the greatest gifts we had to give our country, even greater than the Anthracite natural resource that was stripped from our region to provide fuel and energy for the Industrial Revolution.

We who remain in the region, are proud of the achievements of those who have left us for greener fields, green fields that are no longer to be found in the old hometowns, and around the half-doubles they reluctantly left behind, but which they have never forgotten.

The sound moral values that they learned from their immigrant families, will remain with them forever, wherever they may come to hang their hats.

Mr. Speaker, in the closing days of this Congress, I would like to call to the attention